Esteban Arpad TAKACS
(Phonetic: TAHKahks)

ARGENTINA

Ambassador-Designate to
the United States (since
June 1981)

Addressed as:
 Mr. Ambassador

     The United States granted *agrément* for the appointment of Esteban Takacs as Ambassador to this country on 8 July 1981. He will probably present his credentials to President Ronald Reagan in September. This will be his second diplomatic assignment; he has been serving since 1976 as Ambassador to Canada. Takacs was not his government's first choice for the Washington post—several better known figures were vetoed or turned down the job before he was chosen. He does have close personal ties to members of the Ruling Junta and good connections with the Argentine military—particularly in the Air Force. While in Canada Takacs kept a high profile, traveling widely and campaigning with the press and Parliament to counter unfavorable reports about human rights violations and anti-Semitism in Argentina. His government considered him to be a very effective emissary in Canada, especially with respect to his handling of the two countries' bilateral nuclear arrangement. He has been accessible to US officials, who have described him as low key and unpretentious. (C)

     The son of Hungarian immigrants, Takacs holds an agricultural engineering degree from the University of Buenos Aires (1954). Most of his career has been in the field of natural resources. He has been general administrator of national forests (1965-69); director of renewable natural resources (1969-71); and under secretary for stock raising (1970-71) and for renewable natural resources (1971-73) in the Ministry of Agriculture. (U)

     Takacs, 52, has a warm and pleasant personality. He speaks English and Hungarian. Married to the former Marta Casal, he has three children. (C)

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19 August 1981